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November 8, 1968

**SBC Seminaries Note
Enrollment Increases**

NASHVILLE (BP)--Total enrollment of regular, full-time students at the six theological seminaries of the Southern Baptist Convention increased this fall, up 236 students from the fall semester of 1967.

The total "net" enrollment at the six seminaries this fall was 4,575, compared to 4,312 last year, the Southern Baptist Education Commission here reported.

Four of the six seminaries reported increases in enrollments, while two reported slight decreases.

The four seminaries with enrollment increases were Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.; Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.; The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Slight decreases in regular student enrollments were reported by Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.; and by New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Biggest percentage of increase was the enrollment of Golden Gate Seminary in California, which jumped from 231 to 284 students, or 18.6 per cent.

Biggest numerical increase was at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, which recorded 1,735 students this year compared to 1,614 last year, an increase of 121 in enrollment or 6.97 per cent.

Ranking second both in the percentage and numerical increase was Southern Seminary in Louisville, which reported 1,077 students this fall compared to 996 last fall, an increase of 81 students and 13.9 per cent.

Enrollment at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest increased by 35 students or 6.01 per cent, from 547 to 582 students this fall.

Both seminaries with enrollment decreases reported figures indicating decreases of less than five per cent.

New Orleans Seminary enrollment was 717 last fall, and 694 this fall; a decrease of 23 students and 3.2 per cent.

Midwestern Seminary enrollment dropped by only four students, or 3.2 per cent. Last fall Midwestern reported an enrollment of 207 and this year 203 students.

All comparative enrollment figures released by the SBC Education Commission dealt with "net" enrollment of regular, full-time students.

Three of the six seminaries reported enrollment figures for "other students," including students enrolled in non-credit, extension and correspondence classes.

Golden Gate reported 17 such students, bringing its total enrollment to 301; Midwestern reported 20 "other" students, making its total enrollment 223; and Southern Seminary listed 94 "other" students, bringing its total enrollment to 1,171.

The grand total of all students, regular and "other," at the six seminaries was listed at 4,706. The six seminaries reported a total of 1,030 graduates during 1968, but comparative figures for 1967 were not listed.

In addition to enrollment statistics for the six Southern Baptist seminaries, the Education Commission also reported enrollments of the American Baptist Theological Seminary and Bible College in Nashville, which is jointly sponsored by the SBC and the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.

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The American Seminary reported a net enrollment of 80 students, up 16 from last year's enrollment of 64; plus 943 "other" students primarily in extension or correspondence classes. Total enrollment was 1,023, including extension and correspondence students, and the number of graduates was listed as 14.

The statistical summary was based on official reports from the registrars of each of the seminaries involved.

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Youth Study Materials
On "Fine Arts" Postponed

(11-8-68)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Use of the first quarter, 1969, Life and Work Training Union materials for young people has been postponed until the third quarter of 1969.

The quarterlies were rescheduled so that improvements could be made in study material on the fine arts as a medium of communicating the gospel.

"Young People Training for Action" and "Young People's Training Guide" were the editions affected in the shift. Materials for the second and third quarters will be redated and rescheduled for use one quarter earlier.

"Every effort is constantly made to assure that literature for which we are responsible speaks appropriately to the needs and expectations of Southern Baptist churches," James L. Sullivan, executive secretary-treasurer, Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, said of the change.

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Michigan Baptists Adopt
Resolutions on Race, War

(11-8-68)

LINCOLN PARK, Mich. (BP)--Twelve resolutions, including one which urged Baptist churches to open their doors to all races and another which urged an early ceasefire to the Vietnam war, were adopted here by the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.

"...Be it resolved that we practice an open membership for all honest seekers of worship and affiliation regardless of race, color or economic status," declared the resolution adopted by Michigan Baptists.

The resolution added that Baptists believe "that each church should emulate the example of Christ and follow the New Testament which sets forth that 'God hath made of one blood all nations of man.'"

The brief resolution was even stronger than the wording of the section dealing with open membership in the "Statement on the Crisis in the Nation" adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention last June in Houston.

On the War in Vietnam, the Michigan convention urged Baptists to "pray for responsible leaders on all sides to seek an early ceasefire and termination of all hostile activities and any further buildup of military power and advantage."

The resolution also urged prayer for United States servicemen in the armed forces, and for "the families who have made the supreme sacrifice of losing loved ones."

Other resolutions adopted by the convention dealt with separation of church and state, crime and traffic accidents, obscene literature and questionable entertainment, obligations to vote, the Crusade of the Americas, financial support of Baptist work, missions extension by churches, Bible distribution, and appreciation for hosts.

Citing separation of church and state as "a fundamental principle of Baptist belief and practice," the resolution reaffirmed "our unalterable belief in the separation of church and state and hereby express our sympathy with all who are having to fight efforts of any who would try to violate this principle."

In major business actions, the convention re-elected its president and approved a record 1969 budget of \$6942. The budget allocates \$62,964 to Southern Baptist Convention worldwide mission causes, and includes a goal of \$314,823 for state-wide Cooperative Program contributions.

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Re-elected president of the convention was Max Cadenhead, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Roseville, Mich. Next session of the convention will be held Nov. 4-6, 1969, at the First Baptist Church, St. Clair Shores, Mich.

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Bomb Threat Shocks
Southwestern Seminary

(11-8-68)

FORT WORTH (BP)--A mysterious caller threatened to set off two bombs at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here, but the threat was not carried out.

"It shocked us plenty," said John Seelig, assistant to the president who received the call for President Robert E. Naylor who was away from the campus.

The caller told Seelig the bombs were timed to go off between one and two p.m. Police entered the buildings but found no trace of the bombs and pronounced the threat a hoax.

"It may have been a hoax," said Seelig, "but our exit was plenty fast."

All students, faculty and staff were out of the six on-campus buildings in 11 minutes.

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Indiana Baptist Adopt Crisis
Statement, Congratulate Nixon

(11-8-68)

HAMMOND, Ind. (BP)--The State Convention of Baptists in Indiana adopted resolutions offering prayers and support for President-elect Richard Nixon and Governor-elect Edgar Whitcomb, and approving as its own the "Statement of the Crisis in the Nation" adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention last June.

Most of the meeting was devoted to celebration of the 10th anniversary of the convention, with some discussion and debate on projected plans for the convention's future expansion.

The resolutions congratulating the two Republican victors--Nixon and Whitcomb--pledged "our prayers and support as they lead our nation under God." Greetings were sent to the governor elect.

In approving the "Statement on the Crisis in the Nation," the Indiana convention messengers also urged pastors of Southern Baptist churches in Indiana to communicate the statement to their churches.

The statement reviewed elements of the racial crisis facing the nation, reviewed past Baptist efforts to improve race relations, voiced confession "for our share of responsibility" in the problem, declared a commitment to oppose racism and to accept for worship and membership those of other races, and made an appeal to Baptists to take action to meet the racial crisis in the nation.

During the celebration of the convention's tenth anniversary, all past presidents of the convention were honored, and tribute was paid to the first and only executive secretary of the convention, E. Harmon Moore of Indianapolis. The convention was organized Oct. 3, 1958.

Discussion of future plans for the convention centered around the report of the Executive Board which included long range proposals which basically would have postponed indefinitely beginning any Baptist institutions in the state until the convention reaches about 300,000 members. Instead, the proposals would have emphasized state Baptist camps and assemblies.

The convention voted to refer the long range proposals back to the Executive Board for more study and restructure.

Major emphasis during the convention, in addition to the 10th anniversary celebration, was on the Crusade of the Americas.

A resolution following the defeat of a referendum on pari-mutuel betting during the general election held the same week was adopted by the convention. The resolution expressed appreciation to "all those who contributed to the defeat," and expressed "opposition to all forms of gambling as well as use of narcotics, alcoholic beverages, which things are contrary to God's laws and a detriment to any nation."

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In other action, the convention elected John J. Dorough, pastor of Parkway Baptist Church in Indianapolis, as president; and adopted a record \$569,591 budget for 1969. The budget includes a state-wide Cooperative Program goal of \$350,000, and allocates \$96,600 or 27.6 per cent, to Southern Baptist Convention world mission causes.

Next year the convention will meet, Nov. 6-7, at Grace Baptist Church, Evansville, Ind.

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Ohio Baptists Pledge
Prayer For U. S. Leaders

(11-8-68)

COLOMBUS, Ohio (BP)--A resolution asking prayer support for national leaders and cooperation as citizens from church people was adopted here by the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio.

Although the resolution did not mention President-elect Richard Nixon, whose election took place the day the convention opened, it did note that the convention was meeting at the time of the national elections and stated a vital concern for 'the future spiritual and political welfare of the nation.'

Another resolution noted increasing pressures on government at all levels to divert tax monies for sectarian interests and reaffirmed Baptist opposition to the use of tax funds, directly or indirectly for the support of church-related institutions.

Support was also asked for the hemisphere-wide Crusade of the Americas, which will involve Baptists in North, Central and South America. Ten crusades are being planned for metropolitan areas of Ohio in July of 1969, the convention was told.

In major business action, the convention adopted a 1969 budget of \$1,216,578, allocating 34 per cent to Southern Baptist Convention world mission causes.

Elected president of the convention was Bert E. Williams, pastor of Crestview Baptist Church in Dayton, Ohio. Registration totaled 587 for the three-day meeting.

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Northern Plains Holds
First Annual Convention

(11-8-68)

WARLAND, Wyo. (BP)--Meeting for its first annual convention, the Northern Plains Baptist Convention reported increases in nearly every area of the convention's work during the past year.

Among the 76 churches in the convention, membership increased by 767 to a total of 11,196 in 1968. Total baptisms were 904, an increase of 291. John Baker, executive secretary of the new convention, said the increase is significant because 1,813 members were removed from the rolls during the year. "They do move up here," he explained.

Baker said there was a spirit of "thanksgiving to God for our first year's progress" during the convention. "In almost every area of our work we've had significant gains," he said.

Baker commended the great percentage of laymen and women who attended, saying that out of the 207 registered messengers and guests, probably 140 were laymen and women. "I do not know when I've seen a convention when there was such a high percentage of lay people."

In major business, the convention adopted a \$222,233 budget for 1969 which includes a state-wide Cooperative Program goal of \$88,173. The budget provides \$10,580, 12 percent, to Southern Baptist world missions causes.

Elected president of the convention was E. J. Speegle, pastor of College Heights Baptist Church, Casper, Wyo.

Baker said one of the most significant increases during the year was the increase in Vacation Bible School enrollment, which totaled 7,157 an increase of 1,540. Baker also said great strides were reported in missions work among the Indians, in establishing new church-type missions, and in stewardship and missions support financially.

The Northern Plains Convention is comprised of Southern Baptist churches in North and South Dakota, Wyoming and Montana. The convention was established last year after being a part for several years of the Baptist General Convention of Colorado.

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SEMINARY HORSE TALK: Missions volunteer Jerry Bedsole, a licensed veterinarian who is preparing for missions service with study at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, talks to Elaine and Carolyn Urrey, daughters of Southwestern Seminary Professor Tom Urrey, about the girls' horses. A native of Alabama, Bedsole is enrolled in a special one-year program for professionals at Southwestern Seminary in preparation for appointment by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board as a veterinary missionary. His seminary study was delayed a year because of a wreck which occurred while Bedsole was driving from his home in Birmingham to the seminary in Fort Worth. Just after rescuers managed to drag him from the demolished car, it exploded into flames. (BP) Photo by Bob Russell

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Fuller feature on Bedsole's personal testimony is available on request from the Southwestern Seminary public relations office.